3571

by Roz Gibson

.357!

A FINE, EARLY SPRING DAY, CENTRAL PARK, NEW YORK CITY, CIRCA. 2400 AD

C'MON BARTHY! BETCHA CAN'T CATCH ME!

HOLD ON KIDS! I'M NOT AS FAST AS I USED TO BE!

GRR!

ART & STORY BY **ROZ GIBSON**
SCANNING & CLEAN-UP BY **DAVID HOPKINS**

Originally drawn 1987-88, revised 1990

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LET'S WAIT FOR GRAN'PA PROUDFOOT HERE

AW, IT'LL TAKE HIM FOREVER TO GET THIS FAR!

LET'S EXPLORE!

OKAY

C'MON OVER HERE

HAH!

LOOKIT ME! BETCHA CAN'T DO THIS!

I CAN TOO!

I CAN JUMP FROM THE TOP AND NOT GET HURT, JUST YOU WATCH!

BOYS!?

WHERE ARE YOU?

OVER HERE!

HI GRAN'PA! SEE, WE WAITED FOR YOU!

GASP!

BLAM!!!

BLAM!!

BLAM!

New York City
Police Precinct 18...

TAPPITY TAP TAP TAP

G.BIRD

BEAUTY TODAY

SLAM!!!

LOOK AT THIS!!

WELL??

DREADFUL!

DAMN RIGHT!

NEW YORK P

357 KILLER

3 SLAIN IN C

POLICE STILL

SGT. PORK IN DEEP SHIT NOW!

SGT. PORK

WE'VE BEEN AFTER THIS GUY FOR SIX MONTHS!

THE CITY HASN'T SEEN A KILLER LIKE THIS SINCE THE SOLDIERS CAME HOME FROM THE GREAT WAR!

SO WHY'RE YOU **HERE**?

ITS HOMICIDE'S CASE!

CRUMBLE CRUSH

THAT'S RIGHT! BUT NOW I'M PUTTING **YOU** ON IT TOO!

ME?!!

BUT SARGE!

I'M A **TRAFFIC** COP!

AND THERE'S BEEN NO MOTOR VEHICLES IN NEW YORK FOR OVER 300 YEARS!

AS OF NOW YOU'RE IN HOMICIDE

AND IF YOU SCREW THIS UP IT'LL GIVE ME A GOOD EXCUSE TO--

FIRE YOU!!

IT'S BAD ENOUGH THE EQUAL ACTION LAWS FORCE ME TO HIRE FREAKS LIKE YOU INSTEAD OF **REAL** COPS!

I MIGHT AS WELL TRY TO GET **SOME** USE OUT OF YOU!

YOU BETTER WATCH WHAT YOU SAY, SARGE, OR I'LL CALL THE EQUAL ACTION LAWYERS!

THE BIRD IS AS GOOD AS ANY OTHER COP

BULLSHIT!

YOU BETTER SHUT UP, YOU UGLY BRAT, OR I'LL FIRE YOU TOO!

THE ONLY REASON YOU GOT THIS JOB WAS AS A FAVOR TO MY SISTER

BUT DON'T PRESS YER LUCK!

HUMPH!

AND YOU-- GET CRACKING!

IF I DON'T SEE SOME RESULTS I'LL HAVE THE CHIEF FIRE YOU AND HIRE A REAL POLICEMAN!

OKEY-DOKEY

AND GET RID OF THIS SHIT!!

AWK!

WHAT KIND OF POLICEMAN USES NAILPOLISH?!

I'M THE LAUGHING STOCK OF THE WHOLE STATION BECAUSE OF YOU!!

OF ALL THE SERGENTS I GET STUCK WITH HIM

GRUMBLE GROWL

YOU CAN'T LET HIM TALK TO YOU LIKE THAT!

SUE HIS ASS OFF!

NO SAMMY, HE'S RIGHT, I'M JUST A TOKEN

SIGH

I WENT TO SCHOOL TO BE A HAIRDRESSER!

THE ONLY REASON I TOOK THIS JOB IS BECAUSE DAD SAID HE'D DISINHERIT ME IF I BECAME A BEAUTICIAN

AND THEN THEY STICK ME IN A DEPARTMENT THAT'S BEEN USELESS FOR 300 YEARS!

WELL HOW DO'YA THINK I FEEL?

I'M TWICE AS SMART AS MOST OF THE BOZOS HERE

BUT EVERYONE KNOWS THE ONLY REASON I GOT THIS JOB WAS BECAUSE MY DUMB BROTHER MARRIED THE SARGE'S SISTER!

MY COMPUTER HAS TOTAL ACCESS TO ALL OF HOMICIDE'S FILES ON THE .357 KILLINGS--

I BET WE **COULD** CRACK THIS CASE!

YOU THINK SO?

WAIT A MINNIT!

SURE! IF WE CATCH THE .357 KILLER THAT'LL PROVE WE'RE AS GOOD AS EVERYONE ELSE

THEN SARGE WILL HAVE TO TAKE BACK WHAT HE SAID ABOUT US!

WHADD'YA SAY?

LET'S DO IT!

DEAL!

I CAN'T WAIT TO SEE THE LOOK ON THE SARGE'S FACE WHEN WE TELL HIM WE'VE SOLVED THE CASE!

IT'LL BE GOOD!

Meanwhile, across town, a parakeet squawks...

RRAARRKK!!

NEWS FLASH

RRAARRKK!!

WILL YOU SHUT THE HELL UP!!

EYEWITNESS NEWS 5

RRARRRKK!!

NO I WON'T!

I'M HUNGRY!

WHEN'S DINNER?

GRR..

YUMM..

HERE

AK!!

NOT BIRDSEED AGAIN!

YICK!

I'M SICK OF THIS!

I WANNA GO OUT TO EAT!

I WANNA PIZZA!

I WANT SOME FRIES!

I'M PAYING HALF THE RENT AND ALL OF THE UTILITIES Y'KNOW!!

YOU'LL EAT BIRDSEED AND LIKE IT, UNLESS YOU WANT YOUR **BRAINS** SPLATTERED ALL OVER THE WALLS!

ULP

HAH! UH--SURE THING, JACK!

I CAN ALMOST TASTE THOSE CRUNCHY SEEDS NOW!

I DON'T CARE IF HE PAYS HALF THE RENT, HE'S GETTING TOO DANGEROUS!

I GOTTA DO SOMETHING BEFORE HE DECIDES I KNOW TOO MUCH

BUT WHAT?

POLICE STILL HAVE NO LEADS IN THE STRING OF .357 KILLINGS

.357 SHOOTINGS

A TOLL-FREE HOTLINE HAS BEEN SET UP, AND INFORMATION LEADING TO THE ARREST AND CONVICTION OF THE KILLER COULD BE WORTH A $10,000 REWARD

TEN THOUSAND, SHIT! I'M WORTH FIVE TIMES THAT!

LEMME TRY BLOWIN' AWAY SOME OF THOSE DUMB COPS AND THEN WE'LL SEE WHO'S WORTH TEN THOUSAND!

IN OTHER NEWS, THE SOUTHERN GOVERNOR'S STATE VISIT HAS BEEN--

TEN THOUSAND! THAT'D PAY THE RENT FOR A YEAR! AND I HAVE ENOUGH ON THIS GUY TO NAIL HIM TO THE WALL

BUT DO I DARE--?

Meanwhile, back at precinct 18, Sammy and the Gay Bird prepare to start their own investigation

SEE WHAT YOU CAN DIG UP ON YOUR COM-LINE, SAMMY

I'M GOING TO DO A LITTLE ON-SITE INVESTIGATION

RIGHT!

BIRD

In Central Park--

NUTHIN' MORE I CAN TELL'YA

SAME MO, SAME GUN SAME FUR SAMPLES FOUND NO APPARENT MOTIVE

FUR, EH?

POLICE LI

NUTHIN' THAT HASN'T BEEN GONE OVER A HUNNERD TIMES ALREADY

CAN I SEE THE SAMPLES?

CROS

And in police forensics--

YES, THE SAME FUR SAMPLES WERE FOUND AT ALL THE .357 KILLER'S CRIME SCENES

WE'RE PROBABLY DEALING WITH A PURE MAMMAL

OBVIOUSLY A MUSTELID OF SOME SORT. MINK, MARTEN OR WEASEL. PROBABLY FULL-BLOODED

HAVEN'T THEY FOLLOWED THAT LEAD ALREADY?

OF COURSE!

MORE IF YOU COUNT THOSE WITH PARTIAL BLOOD

THESE THINGS TAKE TIME

BUT THERE'S OVER 500 PEOPLE WITH PURE MUSTELID BLOOD WITHIN COMMUTING DISTANCE OF NEW YORK

DO YOU MIND IF I BORROW THESE?

I HAVE AN IDEA

I'M CERTAIN OF IT, SAMMY! SEE HERE? THE PHOTOS MATCH THE EXAMPLES HERE AND IN MY FUR AND HAIR STYLING BOOK!

ARE YOU SURE?

THEY ALL LOOK ALIKE TO ME

I WENT TO BEAUTICIAN'S SCHOOL FOR FOUR YEARS! I **SHOULD** KNOW THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN MINK AND SABLE!

AWRIGHT ALREADY, DON'T GET HUFFY!

SO YOU SAY THE KILLER IS A PURE SABLE?

FULL OR ALMOST FULL BLOODED

YOU LINK UP WITH THE GENETIC/POPULATION COMPULTER AND SEE WHAT YOU CAN FIND

YOU GOT IT!

I'M GOING DOWN TO BALLISTICS

But before Sammy can even begins his search--

HEY YOU!! GET YOUR ASS OVER HERE!!

SHIT!! WHAT NOW?!

NOW YOU STAY THERE AND ANSWER THE HOT-LINE WHILE WE GO TO LUNCH

YOU GO ANYWHERE AND I'LL HAVE YOU FIRED FOR INSUBORDINATION!

THAT'S TELLIN'IM SARGE!

BASTARD!! HE'S DOING THIS ON PURPOSE JUST TO SCREW UP MY INVESTIGATION!

AWW, DON'T WORRY, SAMMY

FUME

I'VE BEEN ON THE HOTLINE LOTS OF TIMES

THE CRANK CALLS ARE FUN TO LISTEN TO

AND JUST THINK--

IF A HOT TIP **DOES** COME IN, YOU'LL BE THE FIRST TO KNOW!

!!

Later...

OH JA-AACK-- WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

NEW YORK POST

.357 KILLER STRIKES AGAIN! 3 SLAIN IN CENTRAL PARK!

READING

YOU JUST STAY THERE

I'LL START THE HOUSEWORK

AND MAKE A LITTLE CALL FIRST--

For Sammy, the day drags by--

zZz

RRRINNG!

GAHH!!

H-HELLO?

18TH PRECINCT, SAMMY SPEAKING

ERR-- HELLO? I HAVE SOME INFO ON THE .357 KILLER

IF I TELL YOU WHO IT IS, WILL YOU COME OVER AND ARREST HIM TODAY?

I GOTTA LISTEN TO CRANKS ALL DAY?

SHEESH!

YEAH, SURE

WHO IS IT?

HIS NAME IS JACK SALEM AND HE LIVES IN THE NU-WAVE CLASSICAL APARTMENTS ROOM 3336

HURRY UP AND ARREST HIM--

AWWK!

I GOTTA GO!

WHO THE HELL ARE YOU TALKING TO, CAROLINA?

OH, NO ONE, JACK!

JUST MAYBLE

YOU'RE ON THE PHONE TOO MUCH!

YOU SAID YOU WERE GONNA DO THE HOUSEWORK--

DO IT THEN!

THIS PLACE IS A MESS

HMMMM....

I WONDER--

Following a hunch, Sammy abandons the hotline, sneaking past Sarge's office

HAH! A FEW MORE HOURS ON THE HOT-LINE WILL TURN THE KID'S BRAINS INTO MUSH!

THE BIRD'LL **NEVER** SOLVE THE CASE WITH-OUT HIS HELP!

=SNICKER=

ASSHOLES!

I'LL SHOW THEM!

Down in Ballistics...

HE SAID SOME-THING ABOUT CHECKING OUT FUR AND HAIR SALONS

WHAT?!

YES, THE BIRD WAS HERE 'BOUT NOON

FUR SALONS?! GIVE ME STRENGTH!

LEAVE IT TO THE BIRD TO MIX BUSINESS WITH PLEASURE

I GUESS I'LL HAVE TO DO THIS MYSELF!

Meanwhile

I'M SURE YOU CAN MANAGE IT

I'M GOING OUT FOR A WHILE

YOU GONNA HELP WITH THESE DISHES OR WHAT?!

YOU STUPID BIRD--YOU THINK I DON'T KNOW WHO YOU **REALLY** CALLED?

I'LL JUST HANG AROUND AND SEE WHO SHOWS UP

THIS COULD WORK NICELY

I DON'T CARE WHAT THE SARGE SAYS! I GOTTA FUNNY FEELING ABOUT THIS LEAD

Sammy quickly taps into the genetic/population computer, and--

BINGO!

5590290803 3

FILE INFO

Salem, Jack Bertram
b. 3-7-2370
mother; Salem, Marsha Willington
father; Salem; Allway Colly
method of conception: Natural
Classification: Male
Mammal 100%
Species:
Sable 90% Cat 10%
mother: Sable 100%
father: Sable 80% Cat 20%
b. Albany City Hospital no. 5
Siblings:
Salem, Colly George b. 5-19-
Salem, Philip Richard b. 1-27
Current residence: rm. 3336
Nu-Wave Classical Apartments
24700 Manhattan 10th st. Parkway
New York New York
44123-56-10
Former residence:
1491 Wilmar rd.
Albany Hts New York
44123-20-18
State service: None
Sate taxation status: Level 9
Current : Paid
Education:
Albany Hts Primary school no. 7
Albany Hts Middle school no. 1
Intelligence grade: 8.5 (110)
Blue code reproduction clearence
next review date 10-4-2403
Notes: Potential for mental unstability r
at last review, possibly result of l
level. No action taken/ on interven
probation pending next review.
Citizenship: Eastern Confederation/ level
Government review/ watch: No
application turned in 5-8-2399: pend
possibility of exceptence: 90%
Personal status: single
review note: has been unable to main
long-term relationship/ believed to

After hastily leaving a message on the Gay Bird's answering machine, Sammy rushes towards the Nu-Wave Classicals

I GOTTA MAKE SURE THIS GUY DOESN'T GO ANYWHERE!

THE BIRD WILL HAVE TO COME BACK ME UP LATER!

And at the apartment complex

HMM, ANOTHER DIRECTORY BIASED TO-WARDS PEOPLE WHO CAN FLY...

NU-WAVE OCZ

FLOOR 300, WING G--

I'D LIKE TO GET MY HANDS ON THE JOKER WHO DESIGNED THIS PLACE!

THERE IT IS!

I'LL JUST LAY LOW AND KEEP A LOOKOUT FOR HIM--

I HOPE IT DOESN'T TAKE THE BIRD TOO LONG TO GET HERE

MAYBE THIS'LL GET ME A RAISE!

--I'VE GONE OVER THERE TO KEEP A LOOKOUT FOR HIM--

COME AS FAST AS YOU CAN

OH CREATORS!

HE WENT THERE ALONE?!

MAKE A SOUND AND I'LL BLOW THE TOP OF YER SKULL OFF, KID!

YEEKS!!

ALL THEY SENT WAS A STUPID KID?

NOT EVEN A SWAT TEAM?

I AM NOT STUPID!

QUIET!

I THINK I KNOW EXACTLY WHAT TO DO WITH YOU!

SAMMY, SAMMY! FOR A CHILD PRODIGY, YOU SURE DO SOME DUMB THINGS!

IF YOU MESS UP THIS INVESTIGATION-- I'LL TELL YOUR MOTHER!

UMM, ARE YOU IT?

GOOD GRIEF!

NOW HOW DO I GET OUT OF **THIS** MESS?!

THIS ISN'T EXACTLY WHAT I WAS HOPING FOR WHEN I CALLED...

HMM...CLASSY PLACE...

AT LEAST THE KILLER HAS TASTE

I HOPE SAMMY HASN'T GOTTEN INTO **TOO** MUCH TROUBLE!

YOU'LL NEVER GET AWAY WITH THIS!

WATCH ME

HAH! WAIT 'TILL THEY SEE WHAT'S LEFT OF YOU!

TEN THOUSAND MY ASS!

JUST TRY IT, BUSTER!

DECISIONS, DECISIONS...

3336

I REALLY OUGHT TO CALL FOR HELP

BUT ON THE OTHER HAND, IF I MAKE THE BUST MYSELF...

ERR...WHAT'RE YOU GONNA DO, JACK?

I'M GONNA BLOW HIS BRAINS OUT AN' TOSS HIM OFF THE BALCONY--

HE OUGHTA MAKE QUITE A STIR ON THE STREET

=HEH!=

VOICES!

I GUESS I'LL GIVE HIM A CHANCE TO SURRENDER FIRST

3336

IF I'M LUCKY MAYBE HE WON'T NOTICE I DON'T HAVE A GUN

PSST--- HEY JACK! I THINK THERE'S SOMEONE AT THE DOOR!

IT'S ABOUT TIME!!

I'M IN HERE! COME AND ARREST THIS GUY!!

SHUT UP!

I DON'T BELIEVE THERE'S ANYONE THERE AT ALL

But when the door is opened--

YOW!!

HUH?!

YOU'RE UNDER ARREST!

WHAT?

THIS IS THE BEST THE NYPD CAN SEND AFTER ME?!

HAH!

WHATTA JOKE!

THIS'LL GET THE REWARD BUMPED UP TO 100 THOU' FOR SURE!

NO JACK, NO!!

RRAARKK!!

IF YOU KILL HIM AND MESS UP THE FLOOR--

I **WON'T** CLEAN IT UP!

NOT AFTER ALL THE TIME I SPENT MOPPING IT TODAY!

I GOTTA GET OUTTA THIS....

SOME RESCUE!

I NOTICE **YOU** DIDN'T DO TOO WELL YOURSELF

GO ON YOU, INTO THE BATHROOM

PORCELAIN CLEANS EASY

YOU BETTER LET ME GO, UNLESS YOU WANNA GET WRACKED UP ON AN AIDING AND ABETTING CHARGE!

THEY'LL LOCK YOU UP AND THROW AWAY THE KEY!

AND YOU KNOW WHAT HAPPENS TO BIRDS IN THE STATE PENN--!

OH DEAR, OH DEAR

HOW DID I GET INTO THIS?

YOU AND THAT KID--COPS-- WHATTA LAUGH!

I BETTER THINK FAST

OH CREATORS!!

YOU'RE NOT USING **THAT**, ARE YOU?!

THIS KIND OF INSTA-SHAMPOO MAKES ALL YOUR FUR FALL OUT

I KNOW! I LEARNED IT IN BEAUTY SCHOOL

WHAT?

IT ALSO FOAMS UP THE EYEBALLS GOOD TOO, MAMMAL!

ARRGG!

KONK!!

RRAARRR!!!

HURRY!

CRASH BANG

RRRRKKK!

SNARL

YOU'RE DEAD!!

AWWK!!

I ONLY GOT TWO FEET AND A BEAK Y'KNOW!

MY NEW UNIFORM!

MUTILATOR!!

I HAD TO PAY FOR THAT MYSELF!

OOOWW!

COME ON!!

I WANT EVERY PENNY OF THAT REWARD!!

ERRRKK!

QUICK ACTION IS CALLED FOR!

CHOMP!

AIEEYOWW!!

RRARRGG!

AH HA!

AT LAST!

YOWIE!

BASH!!

HEY!

GET'IM OFFA ME!

JEEZUZ, DO I GOTTA DO EVERYTHING AROUND HERE?

NOW SAMMY, HOLD ON

OY, WHATTA SHAMBLES

WOW! GREAT FIGHT!

YOU'LL MAKE THE STATE NEWS FOR SURE!

SWELL

QUIET, YOU TWO

I GOTTA READ HIM HIS RIGHTS

Later...

POLICE 18

THAT COVERS IT!

SEE YOU ON THE 5 O'CLOCK NEWS, BOYS

HAH!

AND THEY SAID I WAS JUST A TOKEN!

WELL, BIRD, THAT WAS THE MOST...**ORIGINAL** BUST I'VE SEEN IN QUITE A WHILE

THERE'S AN OPENING FOR DETECTIVE IN THE PRECINCT THAT SHOULD SUIT YOU FINE

SGT. PORK CAN SHOW YOU THE ROPES

I THINK YOU TWO WILL MAKE GREAT WORKING PARTNERS

HOULP

THAT'S GREAT, CHIEF! TRAFFIC DIVISION WAS KIND OF SLOW

BUT CHIEF!

YOU CAN'T!!

SHUT UP, SARGE

THE EQUAL ACTION PEOPLE HAVE BEEN GIVING US A HARD TIME BECAUSE OF YOU...

THIS OUGHTA KEEP'M QUIET

ARGH!!

GREAT JOB, GUYS!

THANKS, BUCKY!

MY KID BROTHER, A HERO!

WHO WOULD'VE GUESSED?

WE'RE SO PROUD OF YOU!

HEY EVERYBODY!

LET'S GO OUT FOR PIZZA AND FRIES!

MY TREAT!

3:88/5-10

Jack Salem will return in:

ESCAPE TO NEW YORK

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